

SECRET

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1968 APR 26 02 09Z

P 260105Z
FM NPIC
TO DIRNSA
INFO CIA

USN-414J
HQNSAPAC
USM-704
USM-604
USM-808
NSAPAC REF VIETNAM (C)
NSAPAC REF THAI (C)
ZEM

S E C R E T

CITE NPIC 3583.

REF: (A) DIRNSA MSG DTG 082248Z, APR 68.
(B) NPIC MSG 2270, DTG 170119Z, NOV 67, SER FO0520
(C) NPIC MSG 2973, DTG 100019Z, FEB 68, SER FO0608.
(D) SOUTHEAST ASIA ACTIVITY REPORT "SELECTED TRANSPORTATION
AND INFILTRATION COMPENDIUM", SUMMARY NO 78, NPIC/R-3S/68.
(E) NPIC BRIEFING BOARD, NPIC L-4835 (2/68).
(F) NPIC MSG 3569, DTG 250055Z, APR 68, SER FO0719

1. REFERENCED MESSAGE REQUESTS INFORMATION REGARDING A POSSIBLE
LINK BETWEEN LAOS ROUTE 165 AND SOUTH VIETNAM ROUTE 14, TOGETHER WITH
COMMENTS AND EVALUATIONS CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE USE OF ROUTE 165 AS
A NEW INFILTRATION ROUTE INTO SOUTH VIETNAM.

2. NPIC HAS PRODUCED THREE MESSAGES, (REF B, C AND F), ONE
BRIEFING BOARD (REF E), AND ONE PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT
(REF D), RECORDING THE PROGRESS OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROUTE 165
EXTENDED AS REVEALED ON PHOTOGRAPHY. A RESUME OF THIS CHRONOLOGICAL
DEVELOPMENT, TOGETHER WITH SOME PERTINENT COMMENTS IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. ANALYSIS OF PHOTOGRAPHY FROM GIANT DRAGON MISSION
[REDACTED] REVEALED THAT LAOS ROUTE 165 WAS BEING
EXTENDED TOWARD THE LAOS/SOUTH VIETNAM BORDER. THE ROAD, IN AN
EARLY-TO-MID STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION, HAD BEEN EXTENDED TO 15 24 07N-
107 14 47E (UTM YC411039), 10 NM FROM THE SOUTH VIETNAM BORDER. (REF
B). IT LEADS INTO AND FOLLOWS THE ALIGNMENT OF SOME SEGMENTS OF LAOS
ROUTES 966 AND 969 WHICH WERE ONLY TRAILS, AND THE RESULTANT ROAD
WILL HENCEFORTH BE REFERRED TO AS ROUTE 165 EXTENDED.

B. ANALYSIS OF PHOTOGRAPHY FROM GIANT DRAGON MISSION
[REDACTED] REVEALED THAT CONSTRUCTION OF LAOS ROUTE 165 EXTENDED
HAD PROGRESSED TO A POINT NEAR THE LAOS/SOUTH VIETNAM BORDER AT
15 24 08N-107 32 28E (YC726043). (REF C AND D).

C. ANALYSIS OF PHOTOGRAPHY FROM GIANT DRAGON MISSION
[REDACTED] REVEALED THAT THE ROAD WAS IN USE, (AS SHOWN BY VEHICULAR
TRACKS) TO AT LEAST THE SOUTH VIETNAM BORDER. CLOUD COVER
PREVENTED POSSIBLE PROJECTION OF THE ROAD BEYOND THIS POINT. (REF
C, D & E)

D. ANALYSIS OF PHOTOGRAPHY FROM UE/YT MISSION
[REDACTED] REVEALED THAT CONSTRUCTION HAS PROGRESSED SOUTH
ALONG THE BORDER, THEN EASTWARD TO JOIN SOUTH VIETNAM ROUTE 14
AT A POINT 8.5 NM NORTH OF DAK PEK. ROUTE 165 EXTENDED APPEARS TO
BE SERVICEABLE AND IN USE BY VEHICULAR TRAFFIC TO THE LAOS/SOUTH
VIETNAM BORDER AT UTM YB893858, AN ADDITIONAL 13.5 NM OF MOTORABLE
ROAD [REDACTED] (REF - PARAGRAPH C THIS MESSAGE). FROM THIS

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POINT TO ITS JUNCTION WITH ROUTE 14, THE ROAD APPEARS TO BE IN AN EARLY STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION. (REF F).

3. THE COMPLETION OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROUTE 165 EXTENDED, AND THE REHABILITATION OF SOUTH VIETNAM ROUTE 14, WHICH IS ABANDONED, OVERGROWN, AND IN DISUSE IN THE VICINITY OF ITS JUNCTION WITH ROUTE 165 EXTENDED, WOULD PROVIDE THE ENEMY WITH A NEW LOGISTICAL SUPPLY ROUTE FROM LAOS INTO THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS OF SOUTH VIETNAM AND PROVIDE A SIGNIFICANT NEW ACCESS TO THE AMERICAN BASES OF DA NANG AND DAK TO, BOTH SERVED BY ROUTE 14.

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END OF MESSAGE

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